

Suspect Held In Bombing Of Temple

By Peter Osnos

Washington Post Staff Writer

Prince George's County police arrested a 30-year-old Cheverly man early yesterday and charged him with setting off a dynamite blast last month that heavily damaged a Temple Hills synagogue.

Police said the man, an electrical worker identified as David V. Maness of 2402 Valley way, was being held on a number of charges, including dynamiting a house of worship, burglary and illegal possession of weapons.

They said a search of Maness's home turned up a printed list of Prince George's synagogues and a hand-drawn map of the Temple Hills area.

Removed in the search were more than 20 rifles and automatic weapons, more than 25 handguns, approximately 4000 rounds of ammunition and about 38 pounds of dynamite, fuses and detonation tapes.

Also taken were bows and arrows, bayonets and swords, throwing knives, switchblades, a pellet gun and brass knuckles.

Sources close to the investigation said that the house contained a "quantity" of literature produced by the Minutemen, an extreme right-wing group devoted to training its members in guerrilla warfare.

The Shaare Tikvah Synagogue in Temple Hills, which

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moved to Prince George's County from Washington only a year ago, was dynamited at about 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11, by what police described as an expertly made bomb. Damage was estimated at \$200,000.

The room in the synagogue that suffered the heaviest damage was normally used for teenage dances on Saturday nights. But because of the flu epidemic, the dance that week had been moved to a private home. There were no injuries in the explosion.

Police officials and Assistant State's Attorney Benjamin R. Wolman said they did not know whether Maness belongs to the Minutemen or any other radical right-wing group. They said the suspect had made no statement, and they were looking into the possibility that there may have been more than one person involved in planning the synagogue explosion.

Stopped With Friend

Maness was stopped by police about 9:30 p.m. Friday as he was driving with an unidentified friend in the 4500 block of Townsley ave., Marlow Heights.

Det. Sgt. Frank Bishop said there have been a number of housebreakings in the Townsley Avenue area recently, and Maness's car was stopped when it was recognized as belonging to a convicted felon.

A check of the car, police said, turned up two guns stolen Jan. 21 from the home of a County policeman. Bishop said a third gun taken in the robbery was not in the car, so police took out a search warrant for the Maness home.

Maness was first arrested on charges of burglary, illegal possession of weapons and possession of burglary tools. The dynamiting charge was added after the search.

Dynamiting a house of worship is punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

Maness, watched by his wife and other members of his fam-



DAVID V. MANESS

... no statement

ily, appeared before a justice of the peace at 3:30 a.m. yesterday and was ordered held in \$41,000 bond. If he fails to make bond, a preliminary hearing will be held at 9 a.m. Monday in District Heights Peoples Court.

The Maness home, on a quiet residential street, was deserted yesterday. Neighbors said that Maness's wife, Joanne, his son and stepdaughter, left the house with a suitcase early yesterday.

Joseph Watkins, who lives at 2400 Valley Way, said the Manesses moved to the neighborhood about a year ago. He said he never recalled seeing Maness with guns or ammunition.

Watkins said that Maness often worked with old cars he kept in his back yard.

"We'd look across and wave," Watkins said, "but mostly he and his wife kept to themselves."

Neighbors said Maness works for a firm that does contract electrical work for the telephone company, and that he worked, at least in part, on power lines.

Reward Offered

By late yesterday, Maness, who is in the Upper Marlboro County jail, had not retained a lawyer.

A \$1000 reward had been offered by a group of aroused citizens for information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons responsible for the bombing of the synagogue.

County officials said that if Maness is convicted the reward would probably go unclaimed as police said they had no informant in the case,

and County police cannot accept rewards.

Rabbi Robert Chernoff, spiritual leader of Shaare Tikvah, said yesterday that he hoped "there will be no premature judgments made against the man."

The Rabbi said repairs had been begun on some of the damage caused by the explosion.

The blast knocked a hole in a concrete floor and blew out three heavy metal doors in a recreation room. Steel doors leading to the kitchen and to an outside stairway were also blown out.

The force of the blast drove fittings on the doors through stainless steel kitchen equipment, leaving gaping holes. In the basement, concrete block walls were buckled and a heating equipment room was filled with rubble.



By Tom Kelley—The Washington Post

Det. Sgt. Frank Bishop and part of the arsenal seized in bombing suspect's home.